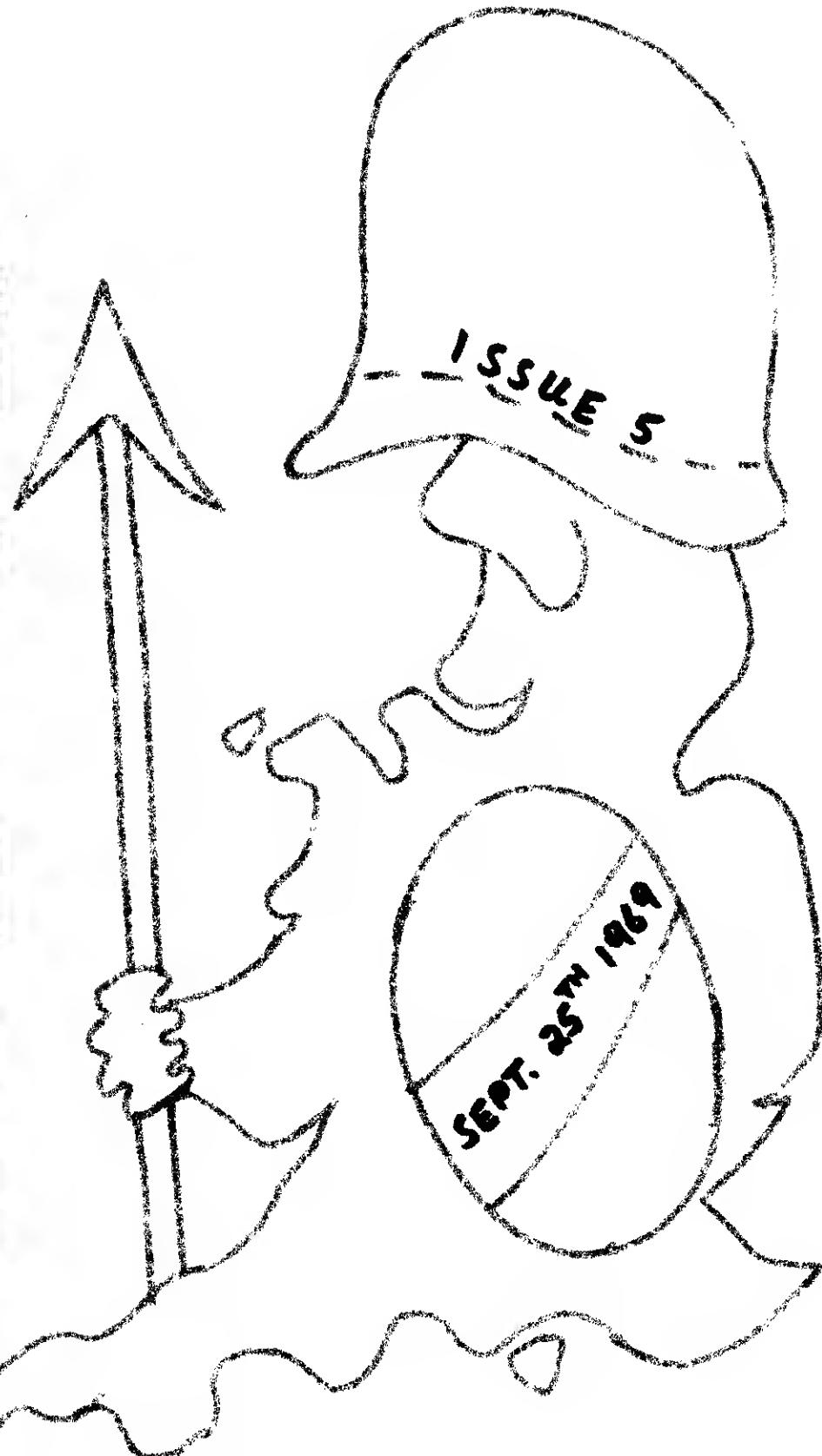


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Number 5

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A L B I O N  
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September 25th 1969

ALBION is a journal of postal Diplomacy, edited and published by Don Turnbull, 6 St. George's Avenue, Timperley, Cheshire, England.

The subscription rate to players participating in ALBION games is announced at the start of such games. To all others, the present subscription is 6d. per issue, including postage within the British Isles and Ireland. Overseas subscriptions currently available by all-for-all trade only: for special non-trade rates apply to the editor.

ALBION records the progress of postal Diplomacy games taking place within the British region of AHIKS, or within the area covered by the British region, AHIKS membership apart.

Diplomacy is a game manufactured and sold by Games Research Inc., 48 Wareham Street, Boston, Mass. 02118, U.S.A. For availability within the British Isles consult the editor.

Cover by George Forster.

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In total contrast to number 4, this issue of ALBION is slimmer, less interesting and in general rather dull. In the first place, two errors in game reporting have to be acknowledged; in the second, the majority of the readers have remained completely mute concerning a number of things - the Bourse, PARLEMENT, the fate of Hypertweedle etc.

The editorial staff is not, however, discouraged by this state of affairs, and will continue to gather material for these pages for as long as there are subscribers. We have no particular expansionist leanings; we are happy to produce two pages or two hundred providing we are fulfilling our function by so doing. In fact, the smaller the size, the less money is lost in the proceedings (an unfortunate topic which rears its ugly head later on).

However, we do wonder how many of you actually read the thing.....

In this issue we continue the policy, started in number 4, of drawing to the attention of British readers various rule disputes which have arisen in American Diplomacy games. For all such matter, past present and future, I am principally indebted to John McCallum, whose permission to re-print from BROBDINGNAG has made this feature possible in ALBION.

You will also find another French cartoon, which arrived too late for inclusion in number 4.

Also, we welcome the return of Strategy and Tactics, and try to get some plans afoot for the running of the DiploBourse.

There's precious little else, unfortunately.....

Apologies page.

The gamesmaster is wondering whether he is competent to handle this Diplomacy business, after all. Responsibility has to be admitted for two errors, one each in issues 3 and 4. According to the house rules of ALBION, the second error has been corrected, with little consequence. The first error was not, however, drawn to my attention until after issue number 4 had been published; the error must, therefore, stand uncorrected, which is a most regrettable state of affairs. My sincere apologies are due to the injured party.

In ALBION number 3, the following moves were reported:-

Italy: A(Tyr)-Tri. A(Ven) S A(Tyr)-Tri.

Austria: F(Tri)-Ven. A(Vie)-Tyr.

All these moves were disallowed. This was, of course, the wrong decision - the Italian attack on Trieste should succeed and the Austrian Fleet displaced. I had, of course, misread the orders, and thought that the attack was coming from Venice, with support from Tyrol; had this been the case, the Tyrol support would have been cut by the Vienna attack, and the verdict as to the outcome would have been correct.

I repeat - my sincere apologies are due to the Italian commander for this error.

In ALBION number 4, the following order was reported:-

Germany: F(Ska) S F(BAL).

Of course, this should have been disallowed, since Skag. does not connect with the Baltic. My thanks to the Russian commander who pointed out the error to me. The mis-reporting does not affect the situation, as it happens; and no harm has been done.

The gamesmaster would like to make it clear that he does know the rules, despite evidence to the contrary, and will make every effort to ensure that no other errors of any nature occur in ALBION game reports. This is a positive assurance, not merely an empty promise.

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Rule Disputes.

The first error recounted above, while regrettable, does open up an interesting situation. Consider the following set of orders:-

Italy: A(Tyr)-Tri. A(Ven) S A(Tyr)-Tri.

Austria: A(Vie)-Tri. F(Tri)-Ven.

I think it is now clear to everyone (including myself) that the Austrian attack on Venice does not cut the support for the Italian attack on Trieste. A(Tyr) should enter Trieste, F(Tri) should be retreated and A(Vie) should stand.

However, what happens if, in addition to the above orders, the Austrian commander also orders F(ADS) S F(Tri)-Ven.?? Is the support of the Venice army cut? Which of the moves into Trieste succeeds??

To examine this more carefully, it is necessary to refer to the rule book, which makes it quite clear that support is only cut if the unit giving the support is attacked from a space different from that into which the support is given. In other words, a support can be cut by an attack 'from the side' only. However, the rule book does not indicate how the above problem is to be solved - at least not directly. This problem is known as Boardman's Dilemma.

In BROEDINGNAG number 84, John McCallum states this problem, and summarises the opinions of four leading Diplomacy magazines. The results are as follows:-

GRAUSTARK allows the support of the dislodged unit (A(Ven)) to remain effective. Editor - John Boardman.

ARMAGEDDONIA and BROEDINGNAG both rule the same way. Editors - Charles Turner and John McCallum respectively.

EREHWON rules that the support is cut. This was not the original ruling on the matter but was adopted after a referendum of its players. Editor - Rod Walker.

So - we have dispute even among top-ranking gamesmasters.

Then came Don Miller; in an attempt to resolve both the Boardman Dilemma and the Koning Rule situation (in the ALBION house rules), Don proposed Miller's rule (which is also in our house rules). This states, simply, that under no circumstances may a displaced unit have any effect on the orders given to other units. It provides a logical, neat and very attractive solution to the problem.

Application of Miller's rule to the problem situation would yield:

A(Ven) displaced, F(Tri) enters Venice, A(Tyr) and A(Vie) stand off, and Trieste is left vacant.

This, then is the ruling which would be adopted by ALBION should the above situation ever arise. Few gamesmasters would now quarrel with such a decision. However, the thorny question is - does the adoption of Miller's rule make the game a variant (i.e. one which has departed from the original rule-book rulings)?

My verdict would be No; to my mind Miller's rule does not contradict the rule book, but merely serves to amplify it. After all, Koning's rule is not in the original rule book, but the examples of play contain an application of the rule; Miller's rule, as is Koning's, is completely in line with the spirit and intent of the original rules.

There are, of course, other more borderline issues at stake in the 'variant' argument, which continues to flourish in American magazines. From sheer inexperience, I do not intend to delve further into the question. Has any ALBION reader any views? If so, I will be glad to print them next issue.

In issue number 6, we will be taking a look at Koning's rule, together with the various extensions of the rule. Also at another dispute situation, space permitting.

DiploBourse.

A few (but by no means all) players and subscribers have written to me expressing interest in the starting of a Bourse game in ALBION. Before starting anything definite, however, we need quite a few more volunteers. Would those who have not yet let me know please do so if they want to take part?

For the reasons stated in the last issue, the Bourse will not be based on a current ALBION game. John McCallum has offered to let me have a complete game to act as basis; I have read the summary, printed after completion, and think it would be very suitable. There is no point in asking John to send all the moves, however, until I am assured we have enough players to make the game worthwhile.

So - let me have your acceptance now. The game is easy to operate, all the real work being done centrally by the ALBION staff.

Incidentally, John also suggests that I print a full game year in each issue, plus all builds, retreats etc. I think this would be a very good way of getting pace into the transactions, and have decided to adopt the suggestion. I don't see any need to print press releases, however, unless any player strongly desires this. They might give hints as to the outcome, assuredly, but few financiers gain access to top military secrets.

Strategy and Tactics.

Strategy and Tactics still lives! This must be reckoned as the best news received in the ALBION offices between issues. It is now being published by Poultron Press, Box 4267, Long Island City, New York 11104, U.S.A.

Volume III no. 2 arrived through the letterbox last week, and I must say that the editorial staff and publishers have done an excellent job in keeping up the high standards set by Chris Wagner. The presentation is perhaps a bit below par, but this was a rush issue, and I am confident the matter will be set to rights next time.

A full account of the new issue will appear in the AHIKS British Region members' bulletin for October 1969; subscription details will also appear therein.

The entire ALBION staff strongly recommend you to subscribe to S&T. If you want only one wargaming magazine (in addition to ALBION, of course), then S&T must be that one.

Rod Walker's column has survived the transition, happily, and this time contains some interesting information on Diplomacy variants. These include Hyperspace Diplomacy, Kriegspiel Diplomacy, Blitzkreig Diplomacy etc. etc.

ALBION Subscriptions.

A regrettable step, but I'm afraid ALBION subscriptions will have to go up. The Turnbull treasury will not stand the strain for very much longer. To justify the increase, even bearing in mind the fact that I used to get some free paper, I will have to go into some arithmetic, set out below.

Expenses.

I run off 30 copies of each ALBION; only half are distributed at present, but I want to keep a reserve just in case there is someone who will want back issues.

The first four issues run to 71 pages, excluding covers. That's £3-11-0d for stencils.

Allowing for wastage, test runs etc., I have used about 2,200 sheets of paper for the first four issues. Paper costs about 16/- for 500 sheets, so that adds up to about another £1-5-0d., bearing in mind that some paper was obtained free.

Postage is a separate item, paid for separately, so will not be included.

Therefore I have paid out about £5-6-0d for four issues, which makes about £1-6-6d per issue.

Income.

I have had seven game fees, adding up to £1-1-0d. In addition, I get 1d. per copy from each British subscriber, making 8d. for four issues so far. (!) I also have 14 copies of each issue for sale, which could bring in a further 4/8d.

Dick Holcombe sent me a dollar, with instructions 'see how far this goes and then ask for more', so I should add another 8/4d., making a total income over the four issues of £1-14-10d. Average 8/8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per issue.

So each issue is costing me a fair amount, and while I don't want to make massive tax-free profits, I would like to break a bit more even than this.

Therefore, I have to ask all current players in ALBION 69/1 to cough up another 5/-, which I guarantee will last until the end of the game. New game fees will be announced for new games (the Bourse, for example). Game fees are certain to be higher next time, I'm afraid.

In addition, British subscribers will be asked to pay 1/- per issue, including postage; this will take effect when current subscriptions run out, i.e. Harry has one copy to come after this at the old fee, and Ray has seven more to come.

I still don't know how much the American subscription will cost in future, since Bob Johnson mails the issues for me and so far has refused to reveal how much this costs him. In order to fix an arbitrary figure, however, let's say 25 cents per issue, including postage.

These new figures will appear on the first page of issue number 6; however current subscribers are reminded that the new rates only apply to them when their current payment runs out.

Sorry to have to do this, folks, but the Turnbull coffers, never in any danger of overflowing, now require a magnifying glass.

P.S. The French commander has already paid his extra 5/-. He says that he wishes to be regarded as a fine example to one and all. Austrian and Turkish comments will be censored.



REPORT. ALBION 69/1. Winter 1902.

France builds.....F(Bre).  
Russia builds.....A(Mos).

REPORT. ALBION 69/1. Spring 1903.

The moves:-

Austria (Nethercot);	<u>F(ADS)-Apu.</u> A(Bud) S A(Vie).	<u>A(Tri) S A(Vie).</u> <u>A(Vie) S A(Tri).</u>
England (Munro);	No orders received. F(NWG) stands. F(NTH) stands.	A(Edi) stands.
France (Watson);	F(ENC)-IRI. F(Spa-NC)-MAO. A(Bur) S A(Bel).	F(Bre)-ENC. A(Bel) stands. A(Pic)-Bre.
Germany (Newcombe);	A(Hol) stands. F(Ska)-Den. <u>F(BAL)-Pru.</u>	A(Mun) stands. A(Pru)-Ber.
Italy (Robertson);	F(IOS)-ADS. <u>A(Tyr)-Vie.</u>	F(Apu) S F(IOS)-ADS. <u>A(Ven)-Tri.</u>
Russia (Hancock);	F(Nor) stands. <u>F(GoB)-BAL.</u> A(Liv)-Pru. A(Mos)-Liv.	A(Swe) S F(Nor). F(Rum)-Bul-EC. A(War) S A(Liv)-Pru.
Turkey (Wood);	A(Alb) S Austrian A(Bul)-Con. F(EMS)-IOS.	A(Tri). A(Gre) stands. F(AES) S F(EMS)-IOS.

Notation:- S=supports. Underlined moves fail.  
IRI=Irish Sea.

Retreats:- The Austrian F(ADS) is dislodged and, having no place to retreat, is eliminated.

The player for England, having missed three moves out of the five so far reported, is asked to communicate with the gamesmaster to make his future intentions known.

Deadline for Autumn 1903 orders:  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8th 1969.

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PRESS RELEASES.

Berlin.

All wires are dead. The official news agency has been closed by order of the Imperial Grant. Further communiquees will only be issued at the Chancellor's discretion.

"  
Bulow.

London.

All communications have been dead for some time. The ALBION Central Press Agency extends the hand of greeting to colleagues in London and desires notification of future news releases.

Moscow.

TZAR IS ILL!

It was today reported that the Tzar was feeling a little under the weather after several evenings on the town. The court was told to find other amusement for a few days, and some of the nobles have been sent to spend some time in the Army (much to their dismay). Meanwhile the military operations are in no way affecting the Tzar's everyday routine of drinking many pints of ale. In fact it is rumoured that the cunning old devil is taking advantage of the continuing absence of some menfolk. However it is, of course, his divine right.

It was reported that he broke off for five minutes when he heard that the treacherous Germans had attempted an invasion. In reply he ordered swift and definite action by the armed forces to remove the black cur once and for all. Then he went back to sleep.

Paris.

WAR! WAR! WAR! WAR!

It was with deep shock and a sense of sadness that Frenchmen today learned that Turkey's current ruler, Sultan-A, had declared war on France. The saddest part of this terrible affair is that Austria-Hungary should be dragged into this needless bloodshed, as she will be the first to feel the full weight of French arms. It is quite obvious that Austria-Hungary has been pushed into this war against her will and it is sad that she must be punished for the wrong-doings of others; but such are the dangers of keeping bad company. Emperor de Gaul has given orders to despatch all available forces to the Med. to offer assistance to our Italian brethren in her conquest of Turkey, should it be required.

From Holland: The Foreign Office has announced that a settlement has been reached with Germany concerning Holland. Since officials from the Department have been satisfied that the Dutch people are happy under the protection of our German neighbours, the Emperor has formally relinquished all claims to this former French protectorate.

From Germany: Diplomatic relations have been officially re-opened and delegates from both countries have been putting their heads together in an effort to formulate a defence agreement. Negotiations are now in their final stages. In order to help these, both sides are reducing their border forces; this will take place over a period of time.

From England: At the request of the English Government, the French fleet under the command of Marcel de Gaul has sailed into the Irish Sea to discourage Fenian activities. It is believed that the Irish rebels may try to take advantage of the present world situation to cause trouble. By moving to this area, the French have released the English Navy for duty elsewhere. The French fleet in Brest has sailed into the English Channel where an English Admiral will take command and employ it in the defence of the English homeland.

Sports Flash: Bookmakers in Paris are giving the following odds on the invasion of Austria-Hungary -

Turkey	Evens )	Evens ) Joint favourites.
Russia	Evens )	

Constantinople.

From the *Nana*, the independent newspaper of Turkey. The Turkish declaration of war upon the Franco-Italian allies was received by the French leader with an outcry of amazement. This itself comes as a surprise to Sultan-A, who, having received repeated provocations from both the French and Italian presses, was left with no alternative. This thixotropic dispersion of words by M. de Gaul, at first insults, then apologies, proves beyond doubt the panic, dilemma and unsettlement in the French leaders' minds at this present time. Their initial foreign policy has obviously been completely revised, with the new Triple Alliance, now including England, thus being formulated. It is known that M. de Gaul has tried to lure both the Governments of Turkey and Russia with his highly over-imaginative proposals. Sultan-A has disclosed the basis of these proposals to demonstrate to other European Powers the ad hoc and inconsistent principles which France exhibits.

A summary of the French proposals, declared both to Turkey and Russia, follows:-

1. To gain the aid of Turkey to assist in the proposed French elimination of Austria-Hungary.
2. OR, to enlist the aid of Russia to help in the elimination of Germany.
3. OR, if the present pact between Russia and Turkey was broken, to help Turkey eliminate Italy, thus allowing France and England to aid Germany in her war with Russia.

The validity of these proposals can only be surmised, but Sultan-A warns that their gravity should not be underestimated. He also solemnly dissuades any European Power, be it friendly to Turkey or otherwise, from joining forces with France. Any such alliance

would only continue as long as it was of use to M. de Gaul. On a less solemn note, Our Leader has imported ten new wives, and because the Sultan-A was so delighted, he has introduced a new delicacy, 'the delights of Turkey', or, more simply, 'Turkish Delights'.

Vienna.

Vienna Times - Diplomatic Correspondent.

At his news conference today, the Foreign Secretary outlined Austro-Hungarian attitudes and gave a frank account of his Government's participation in the many exchanges which had taken place over the past few months. He opened the conference by welcoming the correspondents, and complimented them on the excellent coverage given to both military and diplomatic developments; he was particularly pleased with the neutral Press who had consistently supported his endeavours to maintain the peace of Europe.

Turning to the causes of the present conflict, Prince Michael repeated his plea for the withdrawal of Italian forces from the Tyrol. Much needless bloodshed had taken place. It was entirely due to Italian intransigence that fighting continued along our North Western border. Since the outbreak of hostilities the Austrian forces had managed to contain the Italians, and as proof of the Government's defensive policy, no Austrian troops had crossed the border of a major power. The reserve Austrian forces had withdrawn from Serbia at the request of that Government. Our forces had and would continue to maintain a purely defensive posture, any offensive action being restricted to the requirements of purely military necessity.

Continuing, the Foreign Secretary explained that his department of State had been in receipt of communications from a number of the combatant powers; the contents were of course confidential, but in a number of cases these had contained threats and promises which were obviously aimed to mislead the Government in an attempt to alter its present policy. Certain powers had entered into alliances yet their pledges were not worth the paper they were written on. Proof of this was to be seen in the present deployment of forces. It seems clear that the leading Western power is using its allies as mere pawns, and would betray them as soon as it was convenient to do so. He continued, in answer to several questions, by detailing at some length the reasons why his Government would under all circumstances honour its agreements. Because of its geographical position the nation had always based its foreign policy on certain cornerstones; these included the integrity of its borders, the maintenance of friendly governments in the Balkans, and the balance of power in Central Europe.

Amplifying recent press releases, Prince Michael said that the Ministry of Information was under strict orders to make statements of fact, not of fiction. The dissemination of false information always hurt the country issuing the lie, because its deeds belied its words. No nation could or should trust as an ally one who deliberately misled its so-called friends. He revealed that documentary proof existed of the gross betrayal of a nation by

one of its 'allies'; the details would never be made public - it was merely mentioned as an example of the depths to which some would sink in order to gain a marginal advantage. False statements about so-called 'treaties' were a smokescreen to hide the very serious rifts which were now dividing the warmongering states. The apparent demise of England was to be deplored; it seemed certain that this was the direct result of false pledges and broken promises. He earnestly entreated the British Government to act in defence of its exposed coastline before it was too late.

In conclusion the Foreign Secretary gave his opinion that the existing state of flux in international relations could not continue. The time must shortly come when a polarisation of interest would become apparent. His Government would do all within its power to preserve the independence of Austro-Hungary, but he could hold out no promise of an easy victory; the people must await events with courage and fortitude.

Extracts from the Lyre, official organ of the Italian Government.

Tyrol Border.

News has just reached me here of the results of the unaccountable Italian commander who, only a few days ago, ordered his troops to cross the German border. Our gallant troops marched across without any opposition, then, realising that the C-in-C was suffering from a mental breakdown, placed him in protective custody and quietly marched back again. It has since been discovered that the General was in fact an Austrian imposter, who was trying to involve Italy in a war with her gallant comrades, the Germans. The spy has since met his just rewards, the execution being carried out at dawn this morning.

Another asinine attack by Austrian troops was carried out yesterday, and was beaten off yet again. If these stupid attacks continue, there will be no Austrian troops left in this part of the country.

Apulia.

A crowd of interested spectators today watched the emergence of the Austrian fleet into the Adriatic. This motley collection of drifters, trawlers, paddle-boats and barges, laughingly called a fleet, sailed blithely past the watching eyes of the glorious Italian Fifteenth Fleet, consisting of 6 super-super-super dreadnoughts, 10 super-super dreadnoughts, 21 super dreadnoughts, 187 dreadnoughts, and thousands of battle-cruisers, cruisers, destroyers and accompanying craft.

Ionian Sea.

The Turkish and Italian fleets today carried out exercises to enable the Italian fleet to practice defending their homeland. The Turkish fleet attempted to fight their way past the Italian fleet, but were unable to do so. Although this was only a manoeuvre, it was obvious to anyone that no fleet on earth will ever manage to overcome our gallant Italian sailors upon the high seas.

Rome.

An indignant note has been handed to the French Ambassador, demanding apologies and the return of Mme Mathieu to Rome to face charges of espionage. News of this arch-traitress' activities burst upon a shocked Italian nation early this morning.

During her stay in Rome as the French Ambassador, Mme Mathieu became the idol of the Roman crowds, and it is with horror and revulsion that they have received the news. Riots broke out in the streets, and all day long crowds have marched up and down, chanting 'Andiamo Franchiosi'.

Taken together with the inexplicable attack upon our German brothers from the Tyrol, these disastrous events have caused the downfall of Giovanni Lollobrigida, who has been replaced as Prime Minister by Antonio 'Sophy' Loren. According to the latest reports, Lollobrigida has retired to his country seat, where he ponders his navel for most of the day and embroiders tea-cloths for the remainder.

The Italian Government has handed an apology to the German Ambassador for the invasion of German soil by the Army in Tyrol, and has given a sworn undertaking never to attempt any future invasion. So far, there has been no reply from the Ambassador, and all Italy awaits the answer with bated breath.

Extract from History Today, Yesterday and Tomorrow.

In 1459, the Turkish barbarians were decisively defeated by a mixed army of Austrian, Italian, French and Russian Knights, together with contingents of Polish knights, led by their great and glorious ruler, Soapsudski, some Serbians, under Michael the Thick-Headed, and some Magyars, under their leader Kir Posta. This defeat saved Europe from the domination of an Islamic, Mohammedonic race, and preserved for all times the epoch of Christianity.

Today, from my seat in the University of Oxbridge, I watch with horror a second Turkish invasion sweeping across Europe. Once again the dreaded cry of 'Jeelypeeces' sweeps across the battle-torn Balkan lands, as a new 'Jehad', or Holy War, is shouted from the minarets by the Musclemen. When will the rulers of Europe put aside their petty squabbling, and face the fact that, unless a concerted effort is made by them, Europe will be subjected to another invasion, far worse than that of Attila the Hun?

Italy today stands alone against the aggressor, protecting the Mediterranean Sea. When she falls, as fall she will, then the soft under-belly of France will be exposed to the ravishes of the unspeakable Turk, and Austria - poor benighted Austria - will be left alone, surrounded on all sides by dangerous enemies.

As a historian, I watch with interest; as a European, I watch with alarm this new religious war. For, no matter what the Turkish propaganda states, this is a religious war, between Christianity and Muslimism.

I beg of you, the fifteen who read this great magazine, to warn your respective Governments concerning these facts, and to beg of

them to send help to poor, benighted Italy, before it is too late.

Yours,

Dr. J.E.M.Smythe-Fortescue,  
(Naturalised British subject).

Ph.D. (Univ. of Rome), D.D. (Univ. of Naples), F.R.S.H., F.I.Sh. (Ox and Bucks), etc.

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And so, thus inconveniently and wastefully at the top of a new page, ALBION number five comes to an end.

On re-reading, this certainly has been a dull issue. However even Punch has its bad moments, and we are confident, as we pack away the quill pens and the secretaries, that the next issue will attain new peaks of brightness, intelligence and wit.

This perhaps does not need saying again, but contributions to the non-game pages of ALBION as always welcome, as indeed are press releases and like material. We had considered giving a free copy to anyone contributing an article, but since everyone has already paid for their copy this didn't seem worthwhile. We trust that the non-presentation of the carrot will not deter potential authors from either side of the Atlantic.

The editor wishes to make mention at this point of a hitherto un-mentioned contributor to the pages (more precisely, one page) of ALBION. You may have wondered who was the cause of the inane doodlings which adorn our cover each issue; well, for once you can't blame the editor. The front cover, designed with variable additions in mind by George Forster, is decorated each issue by none other than Margaret Turnbull, who ~~lives with me~~ is my wife. My thanks are due to her, both for this important contribution, and for the gentle, kind way she criticises the entire contents of each and every issue.

'Whosoever findeth a wife findeth a good thing'. Hm.....

ALBION number five now comes to an untimely end.....